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IDEA-0781-68

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15 October 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy for Materiel, OSA

SUBJECT: Life Support Comments on Over-the-Shoulder
Cockpit Camera

REFERENCE: LAC Report, IDEA-0779-68, dated 7 October 68

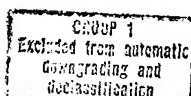
1. The undersigned considers the proposed over-the-shoulder cockpit camera installation marginal with respect to safety and flight operation for the following reasons:

A. Flight Operations: The cameras appear to restrict rear/sideward vision, an area frequently checked by pilots in the traffic pattern and on operational missions. This feature would not appear to be resolved completely by mounting the cameras 1.5 inches farther aft as recommended in the referenced report.

B. Safety: The proposed camera positions are far too marginal with respect to clearance of the pilot's shoulders, considering the size of the pilot in the photographs compared with larger project pilots, and the optimum position shown in the report versus the distinct possibility of the pilot being off center during an actual ejection. Even more critical perhaps is the possible interference of the right side camera with the lap belt ballistic hose and the seat kit emergency oxygen leads. Damage to any of these items upon ejection at any altitude could prove fatal. Mounting the cameras 1.5 inches farther aft would have to be evaluated with respect to these hazards and any new potential interference points that might result.

2. It is recommended that the over-the-shoulder cockpit camera installation as shown in the referenced report be disapproved. Further evaluations should be conducted if cameras are to be installed in any other position than that displayed in the report.

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